

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00

PA-02 SIL-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 CAB-05 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FAA-00 /049 W

----- 045487

R 270930Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5477

USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS MASERU 0075

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, LT, US

SUBJECT: AVIATION AND GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT MISSION TO MIERIA,
ETHIOPIA AND BOTSWANA

REF: GABORONE 98

1. DIRECTOR, CIVIL AVIATION, K. ALEMAYCHU, RETURNED JAN 26. EMBOFF HA
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APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS TM AND PRESENT INVITATION 27 JAN.

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH ASST DCA AMPADU AND TECHNICAL ADVISOR HERBERT
JONES PRODUCED FOLLOWING MATERIAL FOR BACKGROUND BRIEFING:

A. GENERAL STATE OF AVIATION: LESOTHO IS IN EARLY STAGE OF AVIA-
TION DEVELOPMENT, BUT NEXT 5 YEARS SHOULD SEE CONSIDERABLE SOPHISTICA

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TION OF CIVIL AVIATION CAPABILITY. AT PRESENT, LESOTHO MAINTAINS 32
AIRPORTS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, WITH MASERU AIRPORT HOUSING
THE ONLY AVIONICS EQUIPMENT, CONSISTING OF 360 DEGREE, HF, NON-
DIRECTIONAL RADIO BEACON (HOME DEVICE) AND VHF-HF, AERONAUTICAL FLIGHT

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INFORMATION SERVICE UNIT (GROUND TO AIR COMMUNICATIONS). CA HOPES TO SWITCH TO TOTAL AERODROME CONTROL BY 1977 AT MASERU. OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS AFIS UNITS WILL BE ADDED AT QACHA'S NEK, MOKHOTLONG, SEMONKONG AND LERIBE. THERE ARE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR AVIONICS PURCHASES, HOWEVER CIVAIR AUTHORITIES ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING CONTACTS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE PURCHASES.

B. AT THE CENTER OF GREAT EXCITEMENT AND PLANNING IS PROSPECT OF AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, APPROXIMATELY 10 MILES SOUTH OF MASERU. THE CA PEOPLE ARE TALKING OF 1980 TARGET DATE, AND WITH UN AND ICAO ASSISTANCE, ARE TRAINING OVER 70 PERSONNEL IN VARIOUS TECHNICAL FIELDS TO MEET NEEDS OF THE PLANNED AIRPORT, AS WELL AS UPGRADING EXISTING FACILITIES.

C. HOWEVER, MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK FOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS SOURCE OF CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. COST ESTIMATES VARY BETWEEN 8 TO 10 MILLION DOLS. NOT HAVING SUCH RESOURCES INTERNALLY, LESOTHO HAS BEEN FORCED TO SEARCH FOR OUTSIDE FINANCING. TO DATE THIS SEARCH HAS PROVED FRUITLESS.

3. IF INVITATION ACCEPTED, TRAVEL PLANS, BIO-SKETCH AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFO WILL BE FORWARDED SEPTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MASERU00075
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760030-0719
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760118/aaaaapom.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GABORONE 98
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hattaycs
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUN 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AVIATION AND GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT MISSION TO NIGERIA, ETHIOPIA AND BOTSWANA
TAGS: BEXP, LT, US
To: GABORONE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006